

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Napomyza elegans (Meigen) (Diptera: Agromyzidae) confirmed as a root-miner of common valerian, *Valeriana officinalis*—On 8.vii.2001, I took several specimens of a handsome black and yellow agromyzid fly on rough ground at Earlypier (NT2449), Peeblesshire (VC78). These were easily identified as *Napomyza elegans* (Meigen, 1830). Identity was also confirmed from the male genitalia. Spencer (1976, *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* 5, 332) states that the host and early stages of this species is unknown but it is believed that the larva may feed in the roots of common valerian, *Valeriana officinalis* L. (Valerianaceae). As valerian was abundant at the site, a return trip was made on 11 July to collect a few rootstocks of the suspected host-plant. Subsequent examination of these rootstocks revealed that some of the roots contained mines. The mines started near the base of the root and progressed down the root, getting broader as they went (Fig. 1). Two of the mines still contained unemerged puparia in their terminal part. The puparium is spindle-shaped and is 4.5 mm long with a diameter of 1.3 mm. It is pale straw-coloured with the posterior spiracular complex consisting of two well-separated prominences each with a slightly raised ridge containing a double row of 5 or 6 spiracles (Fig. 2). A single male *Napomyza elegans* emerged from one of these puparia on 19.vii.2001, thus confirming the causative agent of the root-mines. The other puparia became too dry and failed to emerge.—K. P. BLAND, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF.

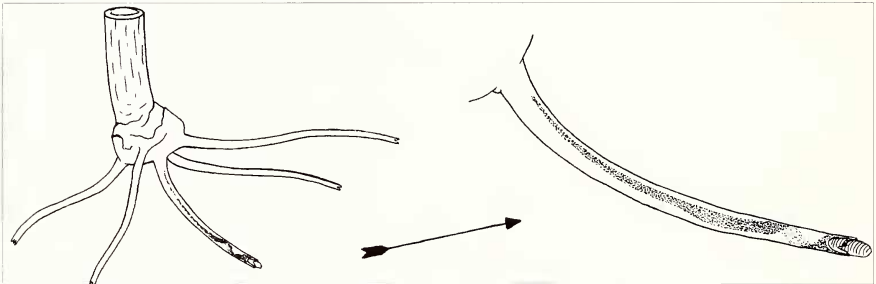


Fig. 1. Sketch of the position and form of the mine of *Napomyza elegans* in the roots of common valerian.



Fig. 2. Scanning electron-microscopic enlargement of the spiracular complex on the posterior end of the puparium of *N. elegans*.